IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Currently amended) The removable-unit storage module according to claim [[1]] 9, wherein a multiplicity of such storage modules are configured to work as an organized array.

3.   (Currently amended) The removable-unit storage module according to claim [[1]] 9, wherein storage cells, robotic hands and module tracks are on both sides of the storage module.

4.   (Currently amended) The removable-unit storage module according to claim [[1]] 9, further comprising an elevator mechanism for moving robotic hands from one row of module tracks to another.

5.   (Currently amended) ~~The removable-unit storage module according to claim 1~~ A removable-unit storage module, comprising:

a housing;

storage cells arranged within the housing, wherein the storage cells contain a plurality of objects;

robotic hands to retrieve the plurality of objects from the storage cells; and

module tracks, wherein the module tracks are substantially parallel rows of configurable instances of tracks attached to the housing on which the robotic hands travel, wherein the module tracks spiral around the storage module from bottom to top.

6.   (Currently amended) ~~The removable-unit storage module according to claim 1, further comprising 1~~A removable-unit storage module, comprising:

a housing;

storage cells arranged within the housing, wherein the storage cells contain a plurality of objects;

robotic hands to retrieve the plurality of objects from the storage cells;

module tracks, wherein the module tracks are substantially parallel rows of configurable instances of tracks attached to the housing on which the robotic hands travel; and

bridge tracks to connect the rows of module tracks on opposite sides of the storage module, and to connect rows of module tracks on one storage module to rows of module tracks on another storage module.

7.   (Previously presented) The removable-unit storage module according to claim 6, wherein the bridge tracks can be connected to and disconnected from the storage module dynamically.

8.   (Previously presented) The removable-unit storage module according to claim 7, wherein the bridge tracks can be connected and disconnected from the storage module independently of each other.

9.   (Previously presented) A removable-unit storage module, comprising:

a housing;

storage cells arranged within the housing, wherein the storage cells contain a plurality of objects;

robotic hands to retrieve the plurality of objects from the storage cells;

module tracks, wherein the module tracks are substantially parallel rows of configurable instances of tracks attached to the housing on which the robotic hands travel; and

bridge tracks to connect the rows of module tracks on opposite sides of the storage module, and to connect the rows of module tracks on one storage module to the rows of module tracks on another storage module;

wherein the bridge tracks can be connected to and disconnected from the storage module dynamically;

wherein the bridge tracks can be adapted to a variable distance between storage modules.

10.　(Previously presented)　A removable-unit storage module, comprising:
a housing;

storage cells arranged within the housing, wherein the storage cells contain a plurality of objects;

robotic hands to retrieve the plurality of objects from the storage cells;

module tracks, wherein the module tracks are substantially parallel rows of configurable instances of tracks attached to the housing on which the robotic hands travel; and

bridge tracks to connect the rows of module tracks on opposite sides of the storage module, and to connect the rows of module tracks on one storage module to the rows of module tracks on another storage module;

wherein the bridge tracks can be connected to and disconnected from the storage module dynamically;

wherein the bridge tracks can be adapted dynamically to the distance between storage modules while at least one of the storage modules is in motion.

11.　(Previously presented) The removable-unit storage module according to claim 7, wherein the bridge tracks can be connected and disconnected from the storage module together as a column.

12.　(Currently amended) The removable-unit storage module according to claim [[+]] 9. wherein the robotic hands move in one direction for each row of module tracks.

13.   (Currently amended) The removable-unit storage module according to claim [[1]] 9, wherein the storage cells hold data storage devices.

14.   (Currently amended) The removable-unit storage module according to claim [[1]] 9, wherein the storage cells hold inventory items.

15.   (Currently amended) The removable-unit storage module according to claim [[1]] 9, wherein the storage cells are arranged in a rule based structure within the housing.

16-22. (Cancelled)

23.   (Currently amended) The removable-unit storage network according to claim [[22]] 27, wherein the bridge tracks allow robotic hands to move between module tracks on different storage modules and retrieve objects from the modules.

24.   (Currently amended) The removable-unit storage network according to claim [[22]] 27, wherein the bridge tracks can be dynamically connected to and disconnected from module tracks on the storage modules.

25.   (Previously presented) The removable-unit storage network according to claim 24, wherein the bridge tracks can be independently connected to and disconnected from module tracks on the storage modules.

26.   (Previously presented) The removable-unit storage network according to claim 24, wherein several rows of bridge tracks can be connected to and disconnected as a unit from module tracks on the storage modules.

27.   (Currently amended) The removable-unit storage network according to claim 22, further comprising A removable-unit storage network, comprising:
        multiple removable-unit storage modules;
        bridge tracks which connect the storage modules;

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wherein the bridge tracks allow robotic hands to move between module tracks, wherein the module tracks are substantially parallel rows of configurable instances of tracks attached to the housing of the storage module on which the robotic hands travel; and

meta data within each storage module which contains information about the resources available to that storage module at a given time.

28.   (Original) The removable-unit storage network according to claim 27, wherein the meta data comprises:

the number of robotic arms;

the location of the robotic arms;

the identity of stored units; and

the location of stored units.

29.   (Original) The removable-unit storage network according to claim 27, wherein the meta data is stored for short time intervals.

30.   (Previously presented) The removable-unit storage network according to claim 29, wherein the meta data storage is associated with the storage module.

31.   (Previously presented) The removable-unit storage network according to claim 30, wherein such association persists when the storage module is moved.

32.   (Previously presented) The removable-unit storage network according to claim 30, wherein such association persists when the storage module is reconfigured via moving bridge tracks.

33.   (Original) The removable-unit storage network according to claim 27, wherein the meta data is stored in a non-volatile memory storage medium.

34.   (Previously presented) The removable-unit storage network according to claim 27, wherein the meta data of separate storage modules are:

    integrated when storage modules are connected; and

    decoupled when storage modules are disconnected.

35.   (Currently amended) ~~The removable-unit storage network according to claim 22,~~ A removable-unit storage network, comprising:

    multiple removable-unit storage modules;

    bridge tracks which connect the storage modules;

    wherein the bridge tracks allow robotic hands to move between module tracks, wherein the module tracks are substantially parallel rows of configurable instances of tracks attached to the housing of the storage module on which the robotic hands travel; and

    wherein specific users have access to specific storage modules within the network.

36.   (New) The removable-unit storage network according to claim 31, wherein the storage module is moved while the network is functioning.

37.   (New) The removable-unit storage network according to claim 32, wherein the reconfiguration occurs while the network is functioning.

38.   (New) The removable-unit storage network according to claim 34, wherein the integrating of meta data of separate storage modules when the storage modules are connected and the decoupling of meta data of separate storage modules when the storage modules are disconnected occurs while the network is functioning.